

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing the decoding and playback of a sound signal in an asynchronous transmission system, in which ~~method~~ any overabundance of ~~the a~~ filling level of ~~said~~ at least one of a first buffer memory and/or and of a second buffer memory situated at ~~the~~ an inlet or ~~the~~ an outlet of ~~the~~ a decoding block is detected by comparing the filling level with at least one threshold, ~~the method being characterized in that depending on the value of the filling level comprising~~ :

[[-]] if the filling level lies between a first threshold and a second threshold, voice activity detection is implemented and frames considered by said detection as being non-active are eliminated; and

[[-]] if the filling level lies between the second threshold and a third threshold, concatenation processing is implemented on pairs of two successive frames to compact them into a pseudo-frame of length less than or equal to one frame, the length reduction ratio of the pseudo-frame relative to the length of the two frames being greater than or equal to two, wherein concatenation processing is implemented irrespective of the content of the frames.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein detection is performed at the inlet or the outlet of a decoding block having a first buffer memory at at least one of its inlet ~~and/or and~~ its outlet to determine whether any frame is missing or erroneous or whether any samples to be played back are absent, and a fake frame is generated to ensure continuity in the audio playback on detecting such a missing or erroneous frame, or on detecting such an absence of samples for playback.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when the decoding block implements its decoding processing in cyclical manner relative to the content of the first buffer memory, detection of any missing or erroneous frame or of any absence of samples to play back is implemented at the same cyclical frequency, said detection taking place far enough in advance relative to the decoding process to make it possible to generate a fake frame ~~in good time~~.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5, characterized in that~~ wherein a fake frame is not generated when a missing or erroneous frame is detected for a frame on which an absence of samples has already been detected.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 4 to 6, characterized in that wherein, for a system of ~~the~~ a type which can voluntarily stop sending frames, ~~the~~ a type of ~~the~~ a previously-generated frame is stored from one frame to ~~the~~ the a next frame, and ~~this information~~ the stored type is used to determine whether to generate fake frames or to generate frames of silence.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the processing for concatenating two successive frames, ~~the~~ samples of the two successive frames are weighted ~~in such a manner~~ as to give more importance to ~~the~~ first samples of ~~the~~ a first frame of the two successive frames and to ~~the~~ last samples of ~~the~~ a second frame of the two successive frames.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to any preceding claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the thresholds ~~is/are thresholds~~ is adaptive.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a threshold at least one of the thresholds is adapted as a function of ~~the~~ a length of time passed with a filling level above a given the respective threshold.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for playing back a speech sound signal, ~~the device~~ comprising:

 a first buffer memory receiving coded frames; [[,]]

 means implementing decoding processing on the frames stored in said first buffer memory; [[,]]

 a second buffer memory receiving decoded frames output by the decoding means; [[, and]]

sound playback means receiving the frames output by the second buffer memory, the device being characterized in that it further comprises means for implementing the method according to any preceding claim;

means for detecting any overabundance of a filling level of at least one of the first buffer memory and of the second buffer memory by comparing the filling level with at least one threshold; and

processing means operable such that if the filling level lies between a first threshold and a second threshold, voice activity detection is implemented and frames considered by said detection as being non-active are eliminated, and if the filling level lies between the second threshold and a third threshold, concatenation processing is implemented on two successive frames to compact them into a pseudo-frame of length less than or equal to one frame, the length reduction ratio of the pseudo-frame relative to the length of the two frames being greater than or equal to two, wherein concatenation processing is implemented irrespective of the content of the frames.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the processing for concatenating two successive frames, the two successive frames are combined and averaged.